

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 27-29 and 32 without prejudice.

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of disk drives each having a first region and a second region, wherein said first regions have a performance parameter faster than said second regions; and

5 a controller configured to (i) write a first data block at a particular address in said first region of a first drive of said disk drives, (ii) read a second data block from said particular address of a second drive of said disk drives, (iii) calculate a first parity item based on said first data block and  
10 said second data block and (iv) write said first parity item in said second region of a third drive of said disk drives.

2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first region for each of said disk drives comprises an annular area of a storage medium proximate an outer edge of said storage media.

3. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second region for each of said disk drives comprise an

area of said storage medium between said first region and a rotational axis of said storage medium.

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said disk drives comprise a redundant array of inexpensive disks level 5.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said disk drives comprise a redundant array of inexpensive disks level 6.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said performance parameter is a bit transfer rate to a storage medium within said disk drives.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for operating a plurality of disk drives, comprising the steps of:

(A) partitioning an address range for said disk drives into a first range and a second range, where said first range has a performance parameter faster than said second range;

(B) writing a first data block at a particular address in said first range of a first drive of said disk drives;

(C) reading a second data block from said particular address of a second drive of said disk drives;

(D) calculating a first parity item based on said first data block and said second data block; and

(E) writing said first parity item in said second range of a third drive of said disk drives.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CANCELLED)

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller is further configured to (i) write said first data block in a first disk of said first drive, (ii) read a third data block from said predetermined address of a second disk of said first drive, (iii) calculate a second parity item based on said first data block and said third data block and (iv) store said second parity item in said second region of said first drive.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said controller is further configured to write said second parity item in said first disk of said first drive.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 12, wherein said performance parameter is a bit transfer rate to a storage medium within said disk drives.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 12, wherein said first data block is written in a first disk of said first drive, the method further comprising the steps of:

reading a third data block from said predetermined address of a second disk of said first drive;

calculating a second parity item based on said first data block and said third data block; and

storing said second parity item in said second range of said first drive.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 24, wherein said second parity item is written in said first disk of said first drive.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for operating a plurality of disk drives, comprising the steps of:

(A) partitioning an address range for said disk drives into a first range and a second range, where said first range has a performance parameter faster than said second range;

(B) generating both a second data block and a third data block by stripping a first data block;

~~(B)~~ (C) writing ~~a first~~ said second data block in said first range of a first drive of said disk drives;

10            (D) writing said third data block in said first range of  
             a third drive of said disk drives;

~~(C)~~ (E) generating a first mirrored data block by  
             mirroring said first data block; and

~~(D)~~ (F) writing said first mirrored data block in said  
15            second range of a second drive of said disk drives.

27.        (CANCELLED)

28.        (CANCELLED)

29.        (CANCELLED)

30.        (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim ~~29~~  
26, further comprising the step of:

             generating both a second mirrored data block and a third  
             mirrored data block by stripping said first mirrored data block,  
5            wherein the step of writing said first mirrored data block  
             comprises the sub-steps of:

             writing said second mirrored data block in said second  
             drive; and

             writing said third mirrored data block in a fourth drive  
10            of said disk drives.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 26, wherein said performance parameter is a bit transfer rate to a storage medium within said disk drives.

32. (CANCELLED)

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 26, wherein said disk drives comprise a redundant array of inexpensive disks level 0+1.